Community Contact

Manitoba Aboriginal and Northern Affairs

September/
October 2010

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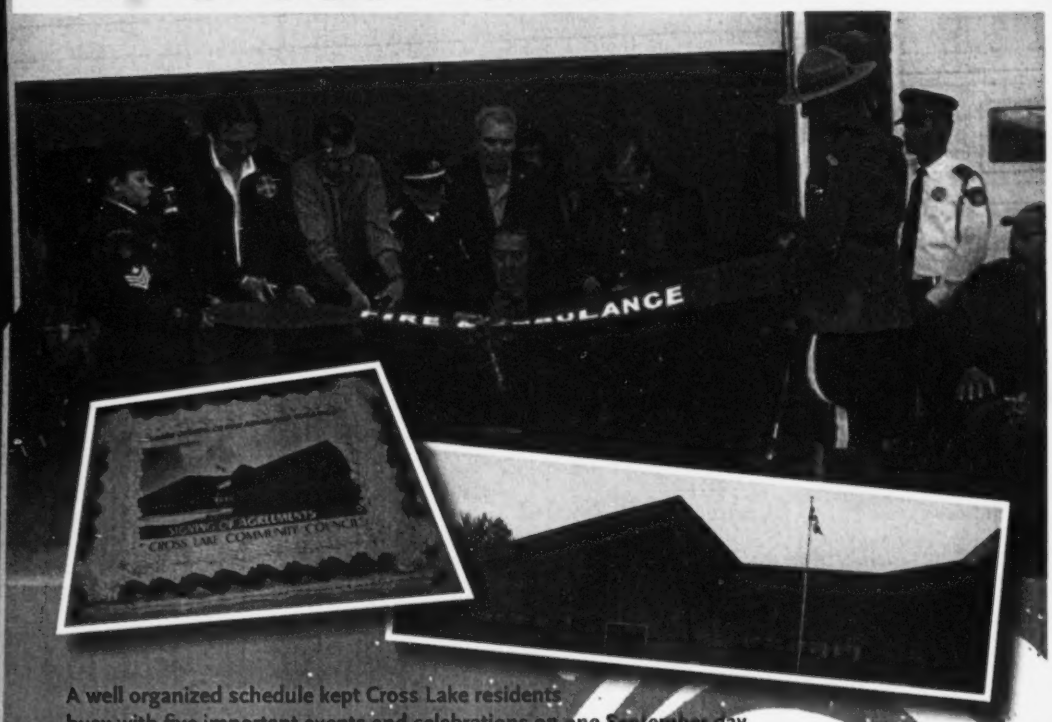
A Day to Remember in Cross Lake



A well organized schedule kept Cross Lake residents busy with five important events and celebrations on one September day.

This Issue

Welcome to the Sept./Oct. *Community Contact* newsletter.

We start this issue with a review of a special day that took place in the community of Cross Lake on September 16, 2010. On that day, the community celebrated five important events starting with the grand opening of the new Cross Lake Administration and Emergency Services Centre. The other events included signing community incorporation papers and signing a settlement agreement with Manitoba and Manitoba Hydro. These are all historic and proud moments for the community of Cross Lake and they have taken many years of hard work and negotiations to achieve.

We continue the issue with a recap of the NACC 40th Annual General Meeting and Tradeshow that took place August 17 to 19, 2010 in Winnipeg. Manitoba Aboriginal and Northern Affairs hosted an information day on August 17, which featured five presentations on topics chosen through consultations with communities. In response to questions and survey results from our day, we also provide two follow-up articles on new regulations affecting community operated waste disposal sites and options for recycling programs.

Along with these articles, we take a look at a special acknowledgement by the United Nations for the Mel Johnson School project, first reported on in the May/June 2009 Community Contact newsletter. The teachers who started this project, Eleanor Woitowicz and Bonnie Monias of Wabowden travelled to New York in May 2010 to make a presentation on the project with Don McCaskill, assistant superintendent of Frontier School Division. Closing out this issue are municipal calendar reminders for the months of October and November 2010.

Enjoy this issue and please feel free to contact us with your comments, pictures or article suggestions, or to request additional copies.

Cross Lake Enjoys

Ceremonies and celebrations made September 16 a day to remember. Cross Lake became incorporated, received a $9.2 million settlement for adverse effects of hydroelectric development, opened a new community administration centre, honoured the late Oscar Lathlin and opened an emergency services facility.

A Historic Day in September

For Cross Lake residents, Thursday, September 16, 2010 is a day that will be remembered.

The first order of business was the official opening of the new Community Administration Centre. Participants in the ribbon cutting ceremony included Deputy Premier and Minister of Aboriginal and Northern Affairs Eric Robinson, Cross Lake Mayor Clarence Smith, Elder Horace Halcrow, Glenn MacIver and Tammy Settee representing the youth of the community, army cadet Sergeant Callie Trout and RCMP Corporal Brian Auger.

This was followed closely by the unveiling of the Oscar Lathlin Room by Minister Robinson, Councillors John L McLeod and Cameron McLeod, Gord Landriault, Sergeant Trout and Corporal Auger. Darlene Beck, Cross Lake community administrative officer, expressed appreciation for provincial support of the Cross Lake Army Cadet Corps during the late Oscar Lathlin's term as minister for Manitoba Aboriginal and Northern Affairs.

Keeping to a well-organized schedule, those assembled then moved into the new council chambers for the official signing of documents which completed the process for the incorporation of the community of Cross Lake. Incorporation under the *Northern Affairs Act* is an important final stage in community self government development. As indicated by remarks from Minister Robinson, by incorporating, the community gains the powers and responsibilities of a municipality including a greater degree of autonomy. The minister went on to say that incorporation is about opportunities and that this authority will provide the community with new means to continue to improve the quality of life for community residents.

Along with their new status, the incorporated community received a cheque from the province for enhanced financial support for infrastructure upgrading, staff training and council development, administrative and legal support and economic development.

Next on the agenda was the official opening of the Emergency Services Centre wing of the new administration building by Mayor Smith, Minister Robinson, Fire Chief Darlene Beck, Councillor Keith Settee and Councillor Robert Smith, who is also EMS instructor for the new facility. This was followed by a sit down lunch in the Emergency Services Centre which was decorated for the occasion. The participants in the morning's events were joined by students from D. R. Hamilton School.

(continued on page 4)

Cross Lake Settlement Agreement Signed

On September 16, 2010 the community of Cross Lake, the Province of Manitoba and Manitoba Hydro signed a settlement agreement resolving a 1992 claim by Cross Lake Community Council seeking compensation for adverse effects of the Lake Winnipeg regulation and Churchill River diversion projects related to hydroelectric development in Manitoba.

The agreement includes $9.2 million in financial compensation and approximately 5,000 acres of land. In addition, a resource management committee will be formed that will give the community of Cross Lake a voice in natural resource activities in the Cross Lake Registered Trapline District.

The agreement will not affect the Cross Lake First Nation rights or obligations under the Northern Flood Agreement, nor will it affect any Aboriginal, treaty rights or other First Nation rights.

The financial compensation will be paid into a trust over a 13-year period. Funds from the trust will be used to promote and enhance:

- economic, social, cultural and spiritual well-being
- civic improvement
- employment
- community services
- recreational opportunities
- educational and training opportunities

At the signing, Cross Lake community received an initial payment of $2 million. The balance will be paid by instalments made on January 2 each year for the next 12 years. The benefits of the agreement will enhance the lives of all residents in the Cross Lake area.

Congratulations to all for hard work and dedication in completing the settlement agreement.

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(Cross Lake, continued)

The day ended as representatives of the incorporated community of Cross Lake signed a settlement agreement with Manitoba and Manitoba Hydro for the adverse effects of hydro development.

It was a day full of significance and meaning. Any one of the events—the opening of the new building, itself a symbol of the community's development; the signing of the incorporation papers leading to a new stage of development; or the signing of the settlement agreement marking the end of many years of hard work and the opening of new opportunities—would be cause for celebration. Having them all happen on the same day made it a truly historic day for the community.

ANA Hosts Information Day at 40th NACC AGM and Trade Show

ANA featured presentations on a variety of topics important to Northern Manitoba community council members and staff.

On August 17, 2010 Manitoba Aboriginal and Northern Affairs (ANA) hosted a day of information for communities attending the 40th Northern Association of Community Councils (NACC) Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Trade Show. Presentation topics for the ANA day were chosen from NACC suggestions and from evaluations gathered at past community regional workshops.

The day began with a special 40th anniversary opening ceremony featuring several guest speakers. Opening remarks were provided by City of Thompson Mayor Tim Johnston, Manitoba Minister of Entrepreneurship, Training and Trade Peter Bjornson, Minister of Housing and Community Development Kerri-Irvin Ross, ANA deputy minister Harvey Bostrom and NACC President Reg Meade.

The following topics were covered during the day:

- Climate Change Adaptation in Manitoba – discussion on the impacts and challenges of climate change in Manitoba
- Waste Reduction and Recycling Support Program (WRARS) – review of new legislation regarding waste disposal sites in Manitoba
- Aboriginal Procurement Initiative (API) – review and discussion on how the API will be applied by ANA when tendering capital projects and how communities and Aboriginal businesses can participate
- Community Futures Manitoba – overview of the services provided to northern communities and highlights of some success stories in these communities
- Manitoba Workplace Safety and Health (WSH) – overview of what communities need to know about internal and external WSH programs

The Community Years of Service and Service Excellence Awards were also presented during the conference. Communities that did not have representatives at the AGM will receive their awards at a later date. ANA thanks all AGM participants and congratulates the NACC on another successful conference.

Waste Reduction and Recycling Support Program Update

Background

On July 19, 2009 Manitoba introduced the Waste Reduction and Recycling Support (WRARS) levy of $10 per tonne on waste disposed at landfills in the province. All WRARS levy revenues are held in the WRARS fund established under *The Waste Reduction and Prevention (WRAP) Act*. The WRARS program is managed by Green Manitoba, a special operating agency of the Province of Manitoba. The WRARS levy is intended to help discourage waste generation and encourage increased recycling and waste diversion activities province-wide.

A presentation on the WRARS levy was given to Aboriginal and Northern Affairs (ANA) communities at the Northern Association of Community Councils (NACC) 40th AGM and Tradeshow in August, 2010. Many questions were asked on how the levy will apply to landfills operated by ANA communities. To help answer some of these questions, Community Contact will feature several articles in coming issues to help communities understand how to comply with the new program, encourage increased recycling and improve landfill operations.

Eighty per cent of the revenue collected from the WRARS levy is rebated to municipalities and communities to promote recycling. The remainder of the funding supports provincial electronic waste (e-waste) and household hazardous waste (HHW) management programs.

WRARS Levy Implementation Dates

The WRARS levy is being introduced in three phases as follows:

Phase 1: Beginning July 1, 2009, all class 1 landfills receiving more than 30,000 tonnes of waste per year were required to pay the WRARS levy. During the latter part of 2009, Manitoba's four largest class 1 landfills registered and 15 municipalities registered for recycling rebate payments. Municipal rebate payments totalling more than $3 million were issued in March 2010.

Phase 2: As of January 1, 2010, all class 1 landfill operations were required to pay the WRARS levy. Thirteen class 1 landfills and 56 municipal recycling programs were registered and rebate payments began September 2010.

Phase 3: Beginning January 1, 2011, all class 2 and class 3 landfill operations will begin to pay the WRARS levy. The registration process for all remaining landfills is now underway and should be complete by December, 2010.

Effect on Aboriginal and Northern Affairs Communities (ANA)

The WRARS levy affects all ANA communities that operate a landfill. ANA will discuss with Green Manitoba how waste tonnage at landfills will be calculated and how the levy will be paid. ANA will also discuss recycling programs and options with Multi-Material Stewardship Manitoba (MMSM) so communities can reduce volumes of material sent to landfills.

WRARS Rebate

The WRARS rebate is available to WRARS registered municipalities and communities operating or delivering waste to a WRARS registered landfill.

For communities to receive a rebate, all ANA community landfills must be registered and have recycling programs in place to divert waste landfills. Additional details on the WRARS program are in the WRARS program guide at **greenmanitoba.ca**.

Information and Help

For additional program information and help with program registration, contact:

Jim Ferguson,
Manager, WRARS Program
Green Manitoba
Phone: 204-945-7042
E-mail: jim.ferguson@gov.mb.ca

A well-designed landfill respects the environment and protects the communities it serves. Charging a levy per tonne disposed in a landfill is a way to reduce waste generation and divert more of the waste stream to recycling. Most of the collected levies are used to help communities pay for recycling, e-waste and hazardous waste management programs.

How Municipal Recycling in Manitoba Works for You

Multi-Material Stewardship Manitoba (MMSM) is an industry-funded, non-profit organization responsible for designing and putting in place a program to fund recycling programs in Manitoba. It operates according to the *Packaging and Printed Paper Stewardship Regulation 195/2008* under the *Manitoba Waste Reduction and Prevention Act*.

On April 1, 2010, MMSM introduced a Municipal Services Program designed to:

- promote the reduction, reuse and recycling of designated packaging and printed paper
- provide stable, long term funding for Manitoba's municipal recycling programs
- ensure the cost of recycling is reflected in steward fees for designated materials

The Municipal Services Program encourages participating municipalities, communities and local governments, including First Nations, to design local recycling programs. Recycling programs can be delivered by municipal employees or contracted to private suppliers. Each municipality can establish, promote and maintain their recycling services to meet their community's needs.

Participating municipalities and communities can receive funding from MMSM's Municipal Services Program, an incentive-driven program that requires municipalities to share the cost of recycling services. The MMSM funding pays up to 80 per cent of the cost of efficient municipal recycling by paying a set rate for each metric tonne of eligible material recovered from the residential waste stream.

Participation in the MMSM Municipal Services Program is voluntary. To qualify, municipalities, communities, local governments and First Nations must operate or contract out residential recycling services. Five materials that must be collected include:

- newspapers and flyers
- aluminum food and beverage containers
- glass food and beverage containers
- steel food and beverage containers
- PET #1 plastic bottles

Municipal recycling programs must ensure that recovered materials are recycled into acceptable end-uses. They must also participate in MMSM cost-monitoring activities and promote their local municipal/community recycling program.

Recently, MMSM launched a new consumer website at **SimplyRecycle.ca** with information and tips on how, what and where to recycle. It tells you how single-use plastic bag recycling works at participating return-to-retailer locations and how it encourages recycling in schools and post- secondary education institutions. The website explains what happens to the materials you recycle, too. Kids of all ages are invited to visit the recycling robots — Reese and Ike L. — on the activities page.

For more information on the MMSM Municipal Services Program please visit **stewardshipmanitoba.org**.

For help with starting or improve your municipal recycling program, call Karen Melnychuk at **204-953-2011** or e-mail **kmelnychuk@stewardshipmanitoba.org**.

United Nations Acknowledges Mel Johnson School Project

Don McKaskill, assistant superintendant of the Frontier School Division, travelled to New York with Eleanor Woitowicz and Bonnie Monias to help present the Veggie Adventures curriculum project to the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development.

Eleanor Woitowicz teaches a youngster about planting vegetables during the making of the DVD presentation of *...And this is my Garden.*

Readers may remember the article *Sharing Healthy Knowledge* in the July 2009 Community Contact issue. The article took readers to the Aboriginal and Northern Affairs community of Wabowden to learn about the Mel Johnson School gardening project led by teachers Eleanor Woitowicz and Bonnie Monias. The gardening project was developed as a way for Eleanor and Bonnie to teach the Frontier School Division Veggie Adventures Curriculum. It's a plant, soil and food science based curriculum providing hands-on activities that teach food production skills and encourage healthy eating.

While meeting academic requirements, the curriculum and associated gardening project also teaches school children and their families about the benefits of sustainable food production, food security and healthy nutrition. The project was documented by Growing Local Productions in a documentary DVD titled "*...And This Is My Garden.*" The DVD was submitted to the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development to exemplify good practices in sustainable development. It was selected because it demonstrated how formal education can contribute to sustainability, how communities can participate in sustainable practices and how easy it can be for other communities to adopt such a curriculum. Eleanor (now retired) and Bonnie, along with Don McCaskill, assistant superintendent with Frontier School Division, were invited to present the project to the United Nations Commission in New York in May, 2010. The presentation was well received and provided delegates with a look at how a small northern Manitoba community has taken education out of the classroom to present it in the gardens of community residents.

Support for using the curriculum and making the DVD was provided by the Northern Healthy Foods Initiative. The project has grown to 73 garden beds tended by students. During the 2010 growing season it also included operating a greenhouse and helping six community elders maintain their gardens.

Copies of "*...And This Is My Garden*" may be purchased by contacting Growing Local Productions at **204-284-4153**, e-mailing **kast12@mts.net** or going to **andthisismygarden.com**.

Municipal Calendar Monthly Reminder for October and November 2010

October 2010

1 Deadline for receipt of any property tax payments to avoid penalties.

Submit semi-annual recreation report.

4 Vehicle registration renewals are due at month end.

5 **Management Maintenance Systems (MMS)** Lagoons dumped upon approval.

11 **THANKSGIVING**

Submit quarterly GST refund.

12 **MMS** - Service snow removal equipment.

15 Deadline for receipt of payment to Receiver General to avoid penalty.

27 Election Day.

29 Submit second quarter financial statements (July to Sept.).

Deadline for vehicle registration renewals.

Event:

- Oct. 3 – 9: Fire Prevention Week in Manitoba.

Community:

- Submit Municipal Employee Benefits Program (MEBP) form and payment no later than seven working days after the last pay period.
- If applicable, submit bi-weekly payrolls for the Building Independence Program to regional office.

WSH Reminders:

- Council to ensure fire extinguishers and first aid kits inspected.
- Council to act on items highlighted as corrective action from inspections.
- Council to ensure fire extinguishers and smoke detectors are in working order.

Departmental:

- Capital project recommendations prepared for the minister's review.
- Respond to O&M surplus/deficit approval request by Oct. 15.

November 2010

1 Deadline for receipt of any property tax payments to avoid penalties.

Submit updated community inventory reports to regional office.

5 Council to ensure employees and contractors (ex: custodial services) are trained in WHIMIS where exposed to chemicals.

7 Daylight Saving Time ends (clocks back one hour).

Ensure batteries in smoke and fire detectors are in good working order.

11 **REMEMBRANCE DAY**

12 **MMS** - Turn on heat trace and recirculating pumps.

15 Deadline for receipt of payment to Receiver General to avoid penalty.

30 Infrastructure audits due.

Events:

- Nov. 5-7: Recreation conference for community volunteers in Brandon.
- Nov. 30 - Dec. 2: Workplace Safety & Health Training.

Community:

- Needs assessment carried out by both the community and the department.
- Obtain applications for Community Places Program from Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Tourism, and initiate pre-planning work. Intake deadline is February 15.
- Submit MEBP form and payment no later than seven working days after the last pay period.
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- Council to ensure fire extinguishers and first aid kits inspected.
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- Are your training records up to date?

Departmental:

- Minister announces Capital Approval Board recommendations.

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Paul Doolan, Editor
1680 Ellice Avenue, Bay 8
Winnipeg, MB R3H 0Z2
Phone: 204-945-2161
Toll free: 1-800-282-8069
Fax: 204-948-2389
E-mail: paul.doolan@gov.mb.ca
Web: Manitoba.ca/ana

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